

Application No.: 09/647,748

Case No.: 54030US008

ratio of short fibers to wood pulp larger than the blend ratio of short fibers to pulp in the second layer.

2. (Four Times amended) An adhesive sheet comprising a paper backing and an adhesive layer provided on one of its surfaces, said paper backing having a double-layer paper structure comprising a first paper layer and a second paper layer, in which said first paper layer and said second paper layer each is manufactured from wood pulp and short fibers, the short fibers having a length within the range of about 3 to 20 mm and the short fibers comprising a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, polyamide, polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyacrylonitrile, rayon, and combinations thereof, and said adhesive layer being provided on the surface of said first paper layer having a blend ratio of short fibers to wood pulp that is larger than the blend ratio of short fibers to wood pulp of said second paper layer.

Please add new claim 6:

6. (New) A paper backing for supporting a secondary layer, said backing having a double-layer paper structure comprising a first paper layer and a second paper layer, said first paper layer and said second paper layer each being manufactured from wood pulp and short fibers, wherein said first layer and said second layer each have a blend ratio of short fibers to wood pulp less than 50%.

A version marked up to show changes made to the claim(s) relative to the previous version of the claim(s) is attached.